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December 10, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-512X: Sierra Pacific Industries—Abandonment Exemption—
in Amador County, CA
STB Docket No. AB-880X: SierraPine—Discontinuance Exemption—in Amador
County, CA

Dear Board:

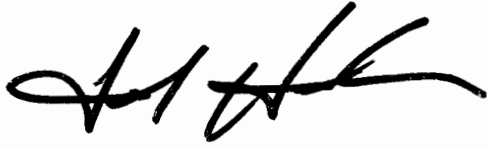
The Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador, California, strongly objects to Sierra Pacific Industries' attempt through these proceedings to abandon or stop rail service of its 12 miles of railway between Ione and Martell, Amador County, California. The Company sought to revoke its authority to operate in 1999 which was denied by the STB in STB Finance Docket No. 33679. That decision was effective December 27, 2001. Apparently the issue of abandonment/discontinuance of service is back before the STB.

The Board of Supervisors objects to the abandonment/discontinuance of service because it has determined that such an action would be detrimental to the commercial life and the environment of Amador County. The rail line extends from a large and developing commercial and industrial area in the heart of the County on the east 12 miles to Ione on the west and from there provides vital rail linkage to Galt in the San Joaquin Valley and beyond. Rail transit is important to some existing and some prospective businesses in Martell and to the overall development of Amador County.

Further, the Board of Supervisors fears that the removal of the rail line or rail service to Martell will cause a domino effect on downstream points between Galt and Ione which are now serviced by the railroad company because of its obligation to serve Ione. Once rail service goes away it is lost forever.

Amador County needs more, not less, transportation modes, especially those that remove vehicular emissions from the County's air.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board of Supervisors' position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. F. Hahn', with a stylized, flowing script.

John F. Hahn
County Counsel

See attached service list

SERVICE LIST

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Attn: Railroads For National Defense
720 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Ste. 130
Newport News, VA 23606-2574

Chief of National Recreation and Trails
National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

California Public Utilities
Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94102

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
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